

AustCham NEWSLETTER

#18 **SUMMER 2023**

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Billy Chan
on the Future
of AustCham

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A Right Royal
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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am honoured and excited to have been elected as the new Chairman of the Australian Chamber of Commerce Macau. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to outgoing chair Janet McNab for her outstanding contributions to the Chamber during her tenure.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all members of the executive and supervisory boards, our long-standing co-founders, past chairs, and all our AustCham members, especially our corporate and SME members. Without your support, the Chamber would not be where it is today.

As we move forward, I am committed to continuing our existing programmes and events, including our Australia Day and Anzac Day celebrations, our monthly Power Hours, and the Movember charity programme. At the same time, I want to emphasise the importance of creating new networking opportunities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

With this in mind, we are organising a spectacular Power Hour Lunch on 13th September, featuring three excellent speakers: Shannon Powell, our Australian Senior Trade Commissioner and Deputy Consul General; Kenneth Wan, the Vice President of the Australian Chinese Association of Hong Kong; and Nicholas Tam, the Vice Chair of the Royal Commonwealth Society in Hong Kong. Wan and Tam are experienced lawyers, particularly in the GBA, and we look forward to hearing their insights.

We have many activities planned for the upcoming months, including an extensive trade mission in the GBA and more. These initiatives will help us expand our reach and provide more value to our members.

My thanks also go to the Macao government representatives, business and technology communities, members of the media, and other business chambers of commerce in the GBA. Finally, we are very grateful to The St. Regis Macao and Sheraton Grand Macao teams – their support and collaboration have been vital to our success.

I look forward to working with all of you to pave the way for more partnerships in the future.

Dr Billy Chan

Chairman of the Board

Billy Chan shares his vision for AustCham Macau



Our new Chairman, Dr Billy Chan, stepped into the role at the end of May, and under his leadership, we have already hosted two successful Power Hours. In June, our 30th session focused on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), while July's theme explored the promising developments in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Billy is a familiar face in the AustCham Macau community, sharing his expertise in medical development and charity work, not to mention his musical talents at many events. He is also the founding chairman of the Sino Phil Asia International Peace Awards Foundation, which recognises the achievements of exceptional peacemakers in their respective fields of expertise.

Born in Hong Kong on Christmas Day in 1960, Billy grew up visiting his father's hometown of Macau regularly. In 1986, he moved to Sydney, Australia, to continue his education, but after a trip to Perth, he liked it so much he decided to stay. "I just fell in love with Western Australia," he says, where he completed his academic studies and began his medical career.

After years of experience in the medical industry across Australia, he relocated to Macau in 2011 to join the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and help what was then the Faculty of Health Sciences (now the Faculty of Medicine) set up a skills simulation training centre.

Billy, the director of the Center for Education in Medical Simulation of the Faculty of Medicine at MUST, has since made Macau his second home. He joined AustCham Macau in 2020 and, before his current position, was a vice-chair on the board.

We sat down with our new chairman to hear about his upbringing, experience, and vision for AustCham Macau.

Can you tell us about your life in Australia?

When I first moved to Perth, I studied public health and medical information technology at the University of Western Australia, where I also worked. I have since worked in the medical industry across Australia, particularly in setting up medical simulation centres.

What made you come back to this part of the world?

I met Dr Manson Fok, the dean of MUST's Faculty of Medicine, in 2008 at the Asia Pacific Congress of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA) in Hong Kong, and he invited me to join his team and help set up a skills simulation training centre at MUST.

When I first started the simulation centre, we started from ground zero. It was an empty floor, and now it's filled with amazing technologies.

When did you join AustCham Macau?

I actually joined AustCham Hong Kong first in 2006. When AustCham Macau launched in 2019, I was invited to events and eventually joined the chamber.

How do you feel about being elected Chairman of AustCham Macau?

Grateful. It's an honour and privilege to have this opportunity. It's been a very rewarding experience to witness the resilience and flexibility of our members during the Covid-19 restrictions. I must say, it was very tough running a chamber during the last three years, during which we embraced new technologies and ways of working with online and live speakers. I must thank the previous chair, Janet McNab, for her leadership, and all the other board members.

Which AustCham Macau programmes are here to stay?

Our team has been very dedicated and resourceful in keeping the chamber alive and relevant. Our monthly Power Hour programme has attracted diverse and engaging speakers on many topics, from health to education, medicine, banking, space science, trade and commerce. We will also continue celebrating International Women's Day and Movember while maintaining our tradition of honouring Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and Australia Day. The supervisory board members have worked hard to bring us to this point, and I'm sure we will continue to excel.

Any changes in the pipeline?

As a new chair, I want to ensure our existing programmes run smoothly. I have big shoes to fill, because my predecessor did such a fantastic job. To build on this legacy, I'd like to bring some fresh ideas to the table to make AustCham Macau even more successful and productive.

What do you have in mind?

I'm looking forward to working more with the press, public and government – and perhaps engaging with the mainland government to learn more about Guangdong, especially the GBA. Our members, especially our SMEs and corporate members, are interested in learning more about the region, and I'm very eager to work on some trade mission activities in the GBA.

For example, we can engage more with Hengqin Island and provide more business contacts for our members, who might be interested

in building relationships with the GBA. It is a very dynamic and rapidly growing region, which Macau is part of, yet many of us still don't have a clear picture of the opportunities. I believe we must work closer together and provide Australia a chance to participate in this potential growth.

How do you see Australian businesses engaging in the GBA?

Australia can contribute to sectors like green and sustainable technology, petrochemicals, intelligent home appliances, biomedicine, and health, among others. These are our strong points. We also have solid Australian businesses in modern farming and food industries, and we should involve them in the GBA. We should look into how we can engage by using Hengqin and the nearby cities to provide more benefits to our members.

How has the relationship between Australia and Macau developed since you moved here?

According to the consulate, close to 1,000 Australian citizens work and live in Macau. Many Macau people also go to schools in Australia or migrate for work, then come back.

On top of this, people in Macau love Australian wines and food. Many even love the Australian way of life, with alumni of Australian universities returning to Macau with the Aussie 'fair dinkum' [an expression used to emphasize something genuine] mentality. In business, we're known for our trustworthiness and workmanship.

How do you describe the Australian community in Macau?

Most Australian people working and living here are in professions like teaching, communication and gaming, or managerial positions, so they are well-educated. We [Australians] are pretty straightforward and known to be very open, honest, sincere and transparent.

Do you plan to return to Australia eventually?

I'm an Australian citizen, and Australia is my home. But before returning, I want to leave a footprint in Macau. As for now, I'm happy to have the opportunity to serve the Australian community here through AustCham Macau.

New faces on the Board



Billy's election on 25 May accompanied the announcement of two new AustCham board members: Denise Lau and Timothy Bruce.

A graduate of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Denise, who is fluent in several languages, has over 15 years of experience as a UN Communications & Conference Planner for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In addition to her experience in event management and cross-cultural communication, Denise also gained diplomacy and negotiation expertise while working on peace and conflict resolution projects.

"I believe my skills can help drive the success of AustCham Macau further, especially in organising initiatives and events that bring people from diverse

backgrounds together," she says, hoping to further connect the Australian and Sino-Luso communities with other groups in Macau.

Timothy also brings a wealth of experience and insights to our community. He has been the General Manager of Grand Hyatt Macau for five years, and before that, he worked on the opening team of the Grand Hyatt Haitang Bay in mainland China. Spanning over four decades, his hospitality career has taken him all over the world to Australia, Japan, Europe and the Middle East, and he has held senior leadership positions for the past 20 years.

His hospitality, financial performance, marketing, management and mentoring skills will play critical roles in AustCham Macau's development.





Anzac Day Dawn Service 2023



1. Alistair McEachern and Paul Tam lay the first wreaths underneath the Australian and New Zealand flags
2. Attendees observe a moment of silence

Tuesday, 25 April 2023

Every year, Australia and New Zealand mark Anzac Day on 25 April – the anniversary of the first World War I military operation fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs). A solemn public holiday, Anzac Day broadly honours all servicemen and women who have suffered or lost their lives during conflicts or peacekeeping operations on behalf of Australia and New Zealand.

Anzac Day is also observed by Australian and New Zealand communities worldwide, including in Macau. We hold our annual Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Old Taipa Houses Amphitheatre against a beautiful backdrop of the Cotai skyline.

Once again this year, we hosted a meaningful service that welcomed roughly two dozen community members. To honour those we've lost, Alistair McEachern, the Deputy Consul-General of Australia to Hong Kong and Macao, and New Zealand ex-army corporal Paul Tam laid the first wreaths underneath the Australian and New Zealand flags, followed by attendees.

Three members of the Australian community, Bernadette West, Catherine White and John Sloane, then gave poetry readings, exploring the meaning of Anzac Day, losing someone we love, and honouring our servicemen and women. Alistair read the final poem, "The Ode of Remembrance", followed by a moving "Last Post" bugle call and a moment of silence.



We then sang the Australian national anthem, “Advance Australia Fair”, and the New Zealand national anthem, “God Defend New Zealand”. To conclude this year’s AustCham Macau Anzac Day Dawn Service, Billy Chan, then a Vice-Chair of AustCham Macau’s Board of Directors, sang our beloved folk song “Waltzing Matilda” with attendees.



“We hold the Anzac Day Dawn Service every year as a mark of respect and to thank the servicemen who lost their lives. It is a fitting time to come together and commemorate them,” Liviano Lacchia, a Vice-Chair of AustCham Macau’s Board of Directors, said after this year’s event.

“Anzac Day also evokes memories of Australia and

New Zealand’s cooperation – two countries brought together. It’s a bond that won’t be broken.”

Paul, who lost members of his platoon while serving in Afghanistan, said the most challenging thing for him is to watch the families of fallen soldiers suffer.

“It’s about seeing their wives and children every day. What are you going to say to them? That’s how important Anzac Day is,” he added. “It’s a reminder for now and for years to come. That’s what I tell my son.”

For Australians overseas, Anzac Day is also a time to come together with a sense of shared identity and remember that we are still connected to Australia even though we’re living abroad, said Alistair.

“It’s very nice to see so many people from Australia and New Zealand come out and [commemorate] Anzac Day,” he added.

Stephen Berry, a Director of AustCham Macau’s Board of Directors, said: “It’s important for Australians and New Zealanders living abroad to have the opportunity to attend services locally to pay their respects and reflect on the sacrifices made by others.”

We would like to extend our gratitude to Deputy Consul-General Alistair McEachern, Paul Tam, and all those who took the time to join this year’s Anzac Day service and remember the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women. We would also like to thank the Galaxy Entertainment Group for sponsoring our breakfast and coffee during the ceremony.

3. Billy Chan sings “Waltzing Matilda”, a beloved folk song
4. Many people from Australia and New Zealand came out to commemorate Anzac Day



To see more photos of the event, scan this QR code:





Paper, planes and politics

Wednesday, 27 April 2023

We were delighted to host another successful Power Hour in April, dubbed “Paper, Planes and Politics”. As our 28th event in the series, the talk took place in the Jade Room of The St. Regis Macao with an audience of more than three dozen guests.

Our guest speaker, Danilo Afonso-Henriques, had just completed a nine-year tenure in Macau as the Delegate of Timor-Leste at the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Macao) – also known as Forum Macao.

On his final night in the city, Danilo spoke about his life, from fleeing Timor-Leste as a 3-year-old and becoming a refugee in Portugal to growing up in Australia and eventually pursuing a career as a diplomat. He also shared fascinating insights and details about Timor-Leste’s history and development.

The Portuguese formally occupied Timor-Leste from 1769 to 1975, interrupted briefly by the Allied occupation of the capital Dili in 1941 during World War II. Soon after, Japanese forces invaded and took control until the end of the war in 1945, when the Portuguese resumed control of the eastern part of Timor Island.





1. Stephen Berry (left) and Billy Chan (right) present a Certificate of Appreciation to Danilo Afonso-Henriques (centre)
2. The event brought together dozens of interested members and guests
3. Danilo Afonso-Henriques shared how life in Timor-Leste shaped his career

To escape the Southeastern Asian nation before the Indonesian invasion of Timor-Leste in 1975, Danilo and his family had to leave the country on different planes. He and his mother left first, boarding the last Portuguese military aircraft to depart the island in September, followed by his older brother and sister, who boarded a Norwegian cargo plane that same month. His father soon left Timor-Leste by hijacking a Royal Australian Air Force Caribou intended to evacuate Australian nationals.

Danilo vividly recollected poignant memories of returning to the war-torn country 25 years later, in 1999, when Indonesia's occupation officially ended.

"I boarded this Hercules [aircraft] in Darwin [the capital of Australia's Northern Territory]. It was super loud – I couldn't talk," he recalled.

During the flight, he wrote a message to the crew on a piece of paper asking if he could sit in the cockpit when the plane approached Dili, having been away from his homeland for decades. His wish was granted, offering him "an incredible moment."

Today, there is still much to be done to rebuild Timor-Leste, which has a population of about 1.5 million. As a representative of his birth country, Danilo is committed to promoting the nation's culture, building international



relationships, and sharing opportunities with foreign investors.

“We are still dependent on oil and gas but have other unexplored opportunities, such as marine tourism. We see huge potential in whale watching and scuba diving,” he said when discussing Timor-Leste’s evolving economy.

He also spoke about expanding business opportunities between Macau and his home country, pointing to a few local companies investing in Timor-Leste. Among them, he mentioned Charlestrong Café Company Limited, which has created a local coffee brand, Café Diliy, using Timor Hybrid coffee beans.

“We have quality coffee – a combination of Arabica and Robusta,” he said. “We are a small nation; there’s always this niche market where you will find quality over quantity.”

At the end of our April Power Hour, Danilo gave Janet McNab, AustCham Macau’s outgoing Chair, and incoming Chair Billy Chan, a Tais cloth – a traditional handwoven Timorese textile mainly used for celebrations or traditional ceremonies.

We’d like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Danilo for sharing his fascinating story and ideas with us and a massive thank you to our generous sponsor, The St. Regis Macao, for the great setting, atmosphere, sips and bites.

To see more photos of the event, scan this QR code:



Conservation on the mend





Wednesday, 24 May 2023

To learn more about how the pandemic has affected international tourism and conservation over the past three years, we were proud to welcome Erina Kilmore, Head of Global Sales of Australia Zoo, as our speaker at the 29th edition of our Power Hour series.

Erina gave her presentation, “COVID and the Global Effects on Tourism and Conservation”, via video to AustCham members in the Astor Ballroom of The St. Regis Macao on 24 May, with a dozen guests in attendance.

She began by sharing the fascinating history of the 700-acre Australia Zoo in Beerwah, Queensland. Opened in 1970 as the Beerwah Reptile Park by conservationist Bob Irwin and his wife Lyn, a wildlife rehabilitator, the zoo quickly became a fixture on Australia’s

Sunshine Coast. Their son, the late Steve Irwin, took the reins in 1990, soon after meeting his wife Terri, with whom he co-hosted “The Crocodile Hunter”.

The couple invested funds from their popular wildlife documentary TV series into the zoo, expanding its capacity and establishing the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. In 2006, Steve tragically died from a stingray injury. Still, Terri and their two children, Bindi and Robert, have continued to uphold the zoo’s reputation as a global leader in wildlife conservation and education.

Covid-19 saw the zoo’s operation suspended for roughly 2.5 months in 2020, and the pandemic also impacted the work of its charity arm, Wildlife Warriors, which strives to protect wild habitats and animals. At the same time, poaching and deforestation rose significantly worldwide as people scrambled to eke out a living.



1. Attendees enjoyed Erina Kilmore's video talk on the "Global Effects on Tourism and Conservation"
2. Stephen Berry emceed the Power Hour
3. Erina's talk inspired many questions about tourism and conservation
4. During the Power Hour, Erina shared the history behind Australia Zoo

"Unfortunately, fewer people travelled to these African countries, which means there was no tourism and no money. It meant that people had to go back to hunting and poaching to provide for the black-market trade," Erina told the AustCham audience.

She also highlighted the need to support these conservation projects and how visitors can contribute as global tourism re-emerges.



To see more photos of the event, scan this QR code:



that during its 76-day closure, the facility still had to feed 1,200 animals, costing about A\$80,000 (over 400,000 patacas) per week, on top of employing over 100 different people to look after the animals.

AustCham Macau's newly elected chair, Billy Chan, asked what the future looked like for Australia Zoo, to which she replied: "The next five to 10 years are looking good for us."

She feels confident about a full recovery because interest in Australia Zoo from international tourists remains very high. And as more global travellers seek meaningful experiences that positively impact the world, Australia Zoo will remain a must-visit destination for animal lovers.

"By giving their money to organisations such as ours, people are contributing to something greater," she said, wrapping up the evening on a hopeful note.

We would like to thank Erina for sharing her knowledge on this timely topic and offer a special thank you to our venue sponsor, The St. Regis Macao, for providing an amazing space, food and drinks.

No individual effort is too small. "Our motto is if we could just save one animal, we'll save the entire species," she stressed.

At the end of the presentation, AustCham Board Member Stephen Berry asked Erina how difficult it was for Australia Zoo to survive and continue its conservation work during Covid.

"Financially, it's been really hard," Erina replied, explaining



Exploring TCM's global potential

Wednesday, 28 June 2023

Over the past decade, the Macau government has been working to diversify the economy by developing more industries, including the traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) sector.

Chinese medicine – which combines herbal remedies, specific diet guidelines, folk beliefs and Confucian philosophy – began in ancient China over 2,500 years ago. Reportedly, the practice has existed in Macau since the 19th century.

In Australia, TCM started in the 1980s, but some argue that Chinese medicine made its way to the country as early as the 1850s, via Chinese gold miners during the Australian gold rush.

Given the history of TCM in both Australia and Macau, we were delighted to have Dr Gabriel Li, assistant professor at the Traditional Chinese Medicine Faculty at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), as our speaker for our 30th monthly Power Hour. Titled “Traditional Chinese

Medicine: The Gem Hidden in the Land Down Under!”, the event took place at the Astor Ballroom of The St. Regis Macao on 28 June.

Around two dozen attendees, including guests from overseas and different chambers of commerce, had the opportunity to learn more about TCM in Macau and Australia thanks to Dr Li's unique background.

A third-generation TCM practitioner who followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Dr Li was born in Xi'an, China, in 1989. At 13, he migrated to Australia with his family, where he completed his biomedical degree at the Australian National University and a degree in Health Science in TCM at the University of Technology, Sydney.

After gaining clinical experience in Sydney, he continued his education at the Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, where he completed a PhD in 2019. He practiced TCM in Guangzhou and Shenzhen between 2019 and 2021 before relocating to Macau, where he started teaching at MUST in September 2021.

In his enlightening Power Hour presentation, the professor commented on TCM's acceptance as a science outside Greater China. "TCM is still undervalued, so I shifted to teaching, which was always a part of me. I would like to pass on the knowledge," he said. "TCM is a hidden gem that needs to be dug up and shown to the world."

With Macau's unique position straddling Western and Chinese cultures, he hopes the city will help spread TCM internationally to Portuguese-speaking countries and Australia. He said that success could lead to rewarding business opportunities and partnerships.

"Dr Li provided valuable insights into the economic impact of TCM, highlighting the potential for billions of dollars in the Australian herbs industry," said AustCham Macau Chairman Billy Chan. "This revelation emphasised the growing significance of TCM not only as an alternative form of healthcare but also a potential economic driver for Australia."

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr Li for an insightful look at the potential of TCM. A special thanks goes to The St. Regis Macao for providing us with a great venue, food and drinks, as always.





We were also delighted to welcome special guests, including communication strategist Chris Cottrell, Australian Chinese Association of Hong Kong Vice President Kenneth Wan, and Dr Li's mother, Jing, who came from Australia to attend our Power Hour!

We would also like to thank the Britcham Macao and CanCham Macao members, who joined us for the evening.

1. Dr Gabriel Li, from the TCM Faculty of MUST, spoke at our 30th Power Hour
2. Dr Li received a Certificate of Appreciation from AustCham
3. Members of the audience posed questions to Dr Li
4. The event drew two dozen attendees, including overseas guests and different chambers of commerce



To see more photos of the event, scan this QR code.



Meet Raquel Fera, who filled a gap in the market in the most delicious way

When Raquel Fera moved from Portugal to Macau, she started missing baked goods from home. Realising she wasn't alone, Portuguese Bakery was born – one piping hot bun at a time.

Our Member Spotlight takes a tasty turn this summer! We spoke with Portuguese Bakery's Raquel Fera, who pivoted from a career in education to baking when she couldn't find the bread she craved most.

New Horizons

When Europe's 2012 economic downturn created uncertainty in Portugal, Raquel Fera and her husband Sérgio considered moving to Australia. However, that process proved more complicated and costly than they had anticipated, so the couple chose Macau instead. Sérgio, a mechanical engineer, had lived in the city before, and they looked forward to exploring Asia.

After Raquel completed her master's in Science Education, the couple made the big move. "At that time, Macau was booming, contrary to what was happening in Europe, so it was very active, very social," she recalls of those early days.

A Fresh Idea

While the culture and energy of her new city was exciting, finding a university-level job proved more challenging. She eventually found a teaching position at a kindergarten, which wasn't ideal, but it ended up being temporary.

All the while, she found herself craving hearty, satisfying Portuguese bread and buttery, flaky pastries. Through conversations with friends and acquaintances who had spent time in Macau, Raquel realised that she wasn't alone. "I noticed that everyone had the same feeling, so I thought that if I opened a bakery, it could be successful."





Getting Hands On

The only problem? She needed to gain experience running a bakery. Seeking advice, she contacted an experienced baker in Alcochete, about a 30-minute drive from Lisbon, Portugal, and asked to work with him to learn on the job. Back in Macau, the fluctuating temperature and humidity would make the bread-making process more challenging, but it was nothing she couldn't overcome with a little trial and error.

In 2013, she leveraged a government fund to help her secure a small location in Macau – and Portuguese Bakery was born.

On the Rise

Raquel started marketing her bakery on social media, and the response was positive from the get-go. Within a month, Sérgio left his job to join the business, with Raquel baking throughout the night, on a schedule from 9 pm to 6 am, and Sérgio overseeing the rest. Using flour imported from Portugal, they initially

offered around six different types of bread, including *pão Alentejano* (a sourdough with a thick rustic crust), *pão com chouriço* (buns with chouriço sausage), and *carcaças* (classic white bread rolls).

About six months into the business, Raquel hit her stride and was taking requests for different types of bread. By December, they had received countless orders for Portuguese Christmas Cakes, and wanted to expand their offerings.

Eager to learn the art of pastry, Raquel took another trip to Portugal to study and practice under a professional pastry chef, then returned to Macau to open a coffee shop.

Take a Seat

In 2016, after working closely with a Macau-based Portuguese architect, Raquel opened her first Portuguese Bakery coffee shop in Beco do Sal, where she serves bread, coffee, and pastries like *bolas de Berlim* (a custard-filled sweet doughnut) and *bolos de arroz* (akin to a rice muffin).

Although Portuguese Bakery specializes in Portuguese baked goods, their customer base has consistently consisted of 90% locals.

Raquel believes that their freshly baked bread made from scratch, as opposed to frozen varieties on the market, keeps their loyal fans returning for their best-selling soft bread rolls and other treats. Although the pandemic disrupted hotel contracts, they still sell to restaurants and supermarkets such as Seng Cheong, Benvindo and Vang Kei.

The Post-Pandemic Landscape

Borders may have reopened, but Raquel is still waiting to see and feel the pandemic's true impact on the local economy. Many businesses have shuttered for good, and thousands of people have left the city. "We're still learning to live with this post-pandemic situation. And the vision that I had before the pandemic was so different."

With four successful outlets – two cafes and two takeaway shops – and a team of 30, the entrepreneur says she will focus on keeping everything running smoothly in the coming year while getting a better feel for the economic landscape.

Beyond the Bakery

Raquel and Sérgio didn't end up moving to Australia, but they have remained very interested in the country and culture over the past decade. So when a friend suggested joining AustCham Macau around 1.5 years ago, Raquel attended an event to get a feel for what the organisation had to offer and promptly joined as a corporate member.

"I think it's a very active chamber, maybe even one of the most active," Raquel says. She also gravitated to the strong sense of community and commitment to connecting members and their businesses. The warm and friendly nature of the people she interacts with at AustCham Macau has added tremendous value to her life, she says.

As a mother of two small children, a 2-year-old and a 5-year-old, Raquel spends her time outside business hours exploring the outdoors. When they can step away from the business for a couple of days, they particularly enjoy the beaches and hiking trails of Hong Kong.

Try Raquel's wonderful world of Portuguese baked goods for yourself. Stop by for a cup of coffee and a Portuguese egg tart, or order online: www.portuguese-bakery.com



A right royal celebration

On 28 April 2023, the Australian Chamber of Macau, the British Chamber of Macau and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Macau invited members and friends to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III at the Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau.

Welcoming around 120 people, the event was completely sold out!





The Macau 2023 State of Origin Touch Rugby Challenge Cup



AustCham Macau was proud to sponsor The Macau 2023 State of Origin Touch Rugby Challenge Cup with Macau Rugby in May.

We loved watching the sporting spirit on the field! As part of our commitment to community engagement, we couldn't have hoped for a better event.







To see more photos of the event, scan this QR code:





GBA Series by
macau
business

Bridging the future

By José Carlos Matias
 Director of Macau Business magazine

Macau's regional integration process in the GBA is a multi-layered venture that starts next door in Hengqin. The general plan for building a Guangdong-Macau in-depth cooperation zone in Hengqin, unveiled in 2021, takes a step further and deeper into a new model of joint development grounded on four key pillars to nurture emerging industries: Sci-tech research and development and high-end manufacturing; traditional Chinese medicine, and other Macau industries, including culture and tourism, conventions and exhibitions, and modern

finance. Together with Macau's well-established core gaming and tourism industries, this gave rise to the "1+4" diversification strategy for the Macau SAR in conjunction with the In-depth Cooperation Zone's development.

All these blueprints rolled out by the Central authorities bode well for Macau, Hengqin, and the whole GBA. The task now lies in the implementation, and for that, a number of preferential policies to attract Macau and overseas businesses have been announced, alongside steps towards enhanced mobility. It's high time to make up for the lost time during the pandemic and inject new impetus into this pivotal joint development project. Authorities in Guangdong, Hengqin,

and Macau have been rolling out numerous incentive schemes, regulations, and policies to that end in recent months. More is needed to improve not only connectivity but also clarify issues related to the Zone's legal system.

Community and business leaders in Macau, as well as representatives of Macau-based international chambers of commerce, have been visiting Hengqin, as the city's business community takes note of the developments in the In-depth Cooperation Zone. As this is a long-term project, it will still take some time for the zone's potential to come into fruition to its maximum extent, but the foundations have already been laid.

The mobilisation of Macau's elites will play a key role, as well as the SAR's role in promoting the Zone's development and attracting investment from abroad. In this respect, the city's centuries-old link with Portugal, Brazil, and the other Portuguese-speaking countries is an invaluable asset. On top of that, the networks in Southeast Asia will also likely yield results. In this context, market confidence is key, and as soon as we see a couple of flagship foreign direct investments taking shape, more investment will follow in their footsteps. It's all about generating a virtuous cycle, where capital mobility meets talent attraction and a compelling market-driven business case not only with Macau-Hengqin in mind but within an integrated approach to the whole GBA. This is not a bridge too far. On the contrary, it's

happening and taking centre stage. It's about crossing a bridge that's already built. To the future.

FIVE TAKEAWAYS

1 Hengqin authorities have set up a RMB 10 billion (MOP 11.3 billion) investment fund to support the development of key industries linked to Macau's future.

2 China's leading search engine provider, Baidu, has recently expanded its reach and established a subsidiary in Hengqin.

3 Zhuhai's economy continues to thrive as its total gross domestic product, for the first half of the year reached RMB 206.3 billion (MOP 230.5 billion), marking a 5.1 percent increase from the previous year.

4 HSBC Life has announced the opening of its first customer services centre in Macau in its latest bid to broaden its market share in the Greater Bay Area.

5 Guangzhou authorities are collaborating with universities and research institutes in Hong Kong and Macau to authorize a limited utilisation of the "cross-border internet" network within the Guangdong provincial capital's Nansha district.



GBA trade accelerates

By Billy Chan

According to the General Administration of Customs of China report, the Greater Bay Area has seen steady growth over the past five months.

Guangdong's foreign trade with exports has increased by 4.8 percent to RMB 2.13 trillion. Trade with emerging markets also grew during the same period with imports and exports to ASEAN and the EU increasing by 5.2 percent

and 0.03 percent, respectively, and exports to countries along the Belt and Road Initiative increasing by 8 percent. The top three exports were electric vehicles, lithium batteries and solar cells, which grew by 7.8, 31.7 and 79.5 percent, respectively. Agricultural produce exports also increased by 27.1 percent.

In addition, the first five months also saw an increase in import demand for bulk commodities and retail products.



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Specifically, imports of meat, aquatic and dairy products increased by 26.1, 23.1 and 14 percent, respectively. The volume of general trade (import and export) reached RMB 1.86 trillion, marking an increase of 5.5 percent while that of bonded logistics increased by 8 percent to RMB 533.11 billion.

According to the statement and from what I have assessed, Australian businesses have yet to align with the potential of the GBA – a dynamic region with high trade potential that could rival that of South Korea.

Upcoming Events

What's on at AustChams across the GBA this summer

MACAO

Inspiring voices enlightening perspectives of GBA development

WHEN: Wednesday, 13 September 2023

WHERE: Astor Ballroom, 5/F, The St. Regis Macao

HONG KONG

In Conversation with Australian Minister for Resources, The Honourable Madeleine King MP

WHEN: Thursday, 31 August 2023

WHERE: Renaissance Hong Kong Harbour View Hotel, Wan Chai

Global Developments in Digital Currencies

WHEN: Thursday, 7 September 2023

WHERE: ANZ Office - 22/F, Exchange Square Block 3, 8 Connaught Pl, Central (or online via Zoom)

GREATER BAY AREA

AustCham tech.Talk:
Riding the wave of robotics revolution

WHEN: Sunday, 27 August 2023

WHERE: The Langham Shenzhen Duke's, 3/F, 7888 Shennan Boulevard, Futian District, Shenzhen 518040, Guangdong

"The Spirit of Australia" Business Awards Gala

WHEN: Saturday, 9 September 2023

WHERE: Shangri-La Guangzhou No.1 Huizhan East Road, Haizhu District, Guangzhou, Guangdong



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利鴻圖偉業大廈H座地下
(百佳超市左側)



Nova Grand

Shop B11, Taste Supermarket
Nova Mall, Avenida de Kwong
Tung, Taipa
澳門氹仔星皓廣場地庫1層B11 號舖
(Taste內)

Old Taipa

Rua dos Cl é rigos, 29AA,
Taipa
澳門氹仔木鐸街29號AA

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